

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO IRAQI AGRICULTURE MINISTER

1. AS RESULT OF AUGUST VISIT TO IRAQ AND REPORTED INTEREST ON PART OF IRAQI MINISTER, ALLIS-CHALMERS CHAIRMAN SCOTT HAS PROPOSED THAT AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ EXTEND OFFICIAL INVITATION TO IRAQI AGRICULTURE MINISTER JUM'A TO VISIT U.S. SECRETARY BUTZ, ACCORDING TO SCOTT, IS IN AGREEMENT WITH IDEA. ACCORDING TO GUS EDWARDS OF A-C, COMPANY HAS IN MIND TOUR OF MIDWEST TO VISIT ALLIS-CHALMERS AND OTHER GROUPS CONCERNED WITH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US JUST WHAT IRAQI POSITION WAS RE IDEA OF OFFICIAL USG INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. (SIMILAR TALKS WERE HELD AT ABOUT SAME TIME WITH SYRIANS. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT REPORTED INTEREST IN USG INVITATION CAME FROM BOTH SYRIAN AND IRAQI MINISTER OR JUST THE FORMER.) QUESTIONS OF FUNDING AND OF PROPOSED ITINERARY
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AND PROGRAM CONTROL ALSO REMAIN TO BE SETTLED.

3. FINAL QUESTION AS SEEN HERE IS WHETHER AN OFFICIAL USG INVITATION TO GOI MINISTER WOULD BE APPROPRIATE NOW. ACCORDING TO L/NEA, FACT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE FORMAL RELATIONS WITH IRAQ DOES NOT POSE LEGAL PROBLEM; HOWEVER,

APPARENT LACK OF SERIOUS INTEREST BY FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING RECENT UN VISIT, AND RECENT NEWS REPORTS (SEPTTEL) REGARDING ALLEGED U.S. ROLE IN KURDISH CONFLICT, RAISE QUESTIONS REGARDING TIMING OF INVITATION, AND EFFECT ON EVOLVING U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ASAP REGARDING ADVISABILITY OF PROPOSED INVITATION AND PROBABLE IRAQI REACTION. KISSINGER

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